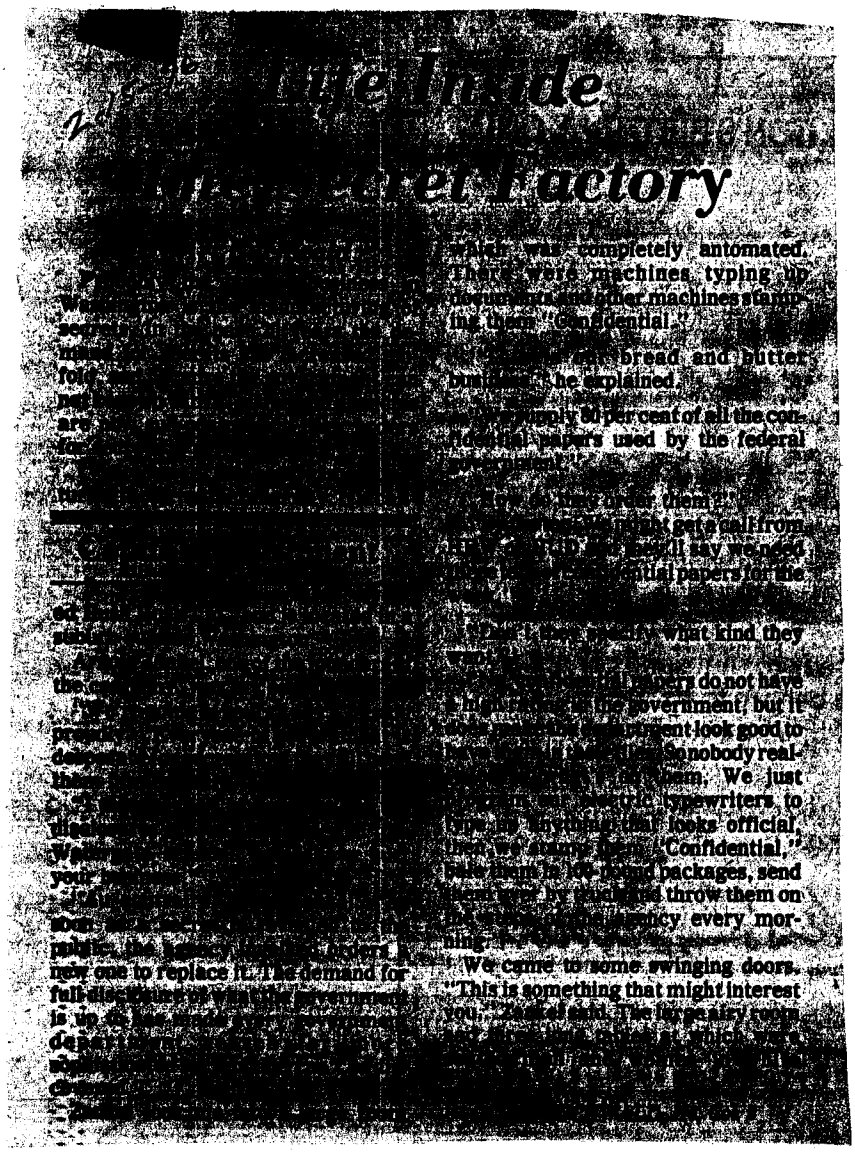

Life Inside a Secret Factory

which was completely automated. There were machines typing up documents and other machines stamping them "Confidential."

[illegible] bread and butter [illegible] he explained. "We supply 60 percent of all the confidential papers used by the federal [illegible]

[illegible] they treat them?

[illegible] get a call from [illegible] I say we need [illegible] confidential papers for the [illegible]

[illegible] what kind they [illegible]

[illegible] papers do not have [illegible] government, but it [illegible] look good to [illegible] Nobody real[illegible] them. We just [illegible] typewriters to [illegible] material looks official, then we stamp them "Confidential," [illegible] cardboard packages, send [illegible] and throw them on [illegible] agency every morning.

We came to some swinging doors. "This is something that might interest you," he said. "The largest copy room [illegible]

[illegible] new one to replace it. As demand for [illegible] full disclosure [illegible] the government is up [illegible] department [illegible] the [illegible]

Life Inside The Secret Factory

BUCHWALD, From H1

smocks. They were working on binding volumes of mimeographed papers.

"What are they doing?"

"They're binding secrets to be subpoenaed. These are secrets that can be given to Congressional committees."

I looked perplexed.

Zanker explained, "Congress is demanding more and more secrets from the executive branch of the government. We are manufacturing secrets specially tailored to satisfy Congressional subpoenas. For example, these chips have been ordered by the Federal Reserve Board and have to do with the private affairs of banks. [illegible] decided to [illegible] the Fed's files. [illegible] will send [illegible] Congress [illegible] no secrets under [illegible] Committees are totally satisfied. The people over there are working on energy secrets, and down there they are dealing with agricultural experts."

Our job is to see that no one can make head or tail out of them."

Before we went into the next room Zanker made me put on rubber boots. We entered a hall with 3 inches of water on the floor.

"This is probably our most difficult work. We have to make secrets here that can be leaked."

"You have government orders for secrets that leak?" I asked in surprise.

"It's one of our biggest items. High government officials are constantly leaking secrets to the press, and pretending surprise that the secret got out. We've developed a container which can hold a secret in a solid state until the word goes out it should be leaked. Then by just twisting this tab, the secret becomes soluble and leaks out."

"Fantastic," I said. "It's one of your biggest item." Between Henry Kissinger, Pat Moynihan and the Congressional Committee investigating the CIA, "we can't keep them in stock."

(C) 1979, Los Angeles Times Syndicate